

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re application of:

Vaudrey *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/934,541

Filed: August 23, 2001

For: Use of Voice-to-Remaining Audio (VRA)
in Consumer Applications

Art Unit: 2654

Examiner: Abebe, D.

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2/3/04
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MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 29, 2003, Applicants submit the following:

For convenience of examination, a complete listing of all pending claims is set forth below. No changes have been made to the claims by this Response to Office Action.

1. (currently amended) A system for providing a user with voice-to-remaining audio (VRA) adjustment capability comprising:

a decoder system simultaneously receiving a first signal comprising substantially vocal signal information and a second signal comprising substantially information other than the vocal signal information of the first signal, wherein the first signal and the second signal are received separately by the decoder system.

2. (currently amended) A method of providing a user with voice-to-remaining audio (VRA) adjustment capability comprising:

receiving at a decoder system a first signal comprising substantially vocal signal information; and

simultaneously receiving at the decoder system a second signal comprising substantially information other than the vocal signal information of the first signal, wherein the first signal and the second signal are received separately by the decoder system.

3-180. (previously cancelled)

181. (previously added) The system of claim 1, wherein the first signal is a first digital bit stream and the second signal is a second digital bit stream.

182. (previously added) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the first signal and the second signal include one or more channels of spatial information.

183. (previously added) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a first adjustment device, operationally coupled to the decoder, that adjusts an amplitude of a decoded first signal based on input from the user; and
a second adjustment device, operationally coupled to the decoder, that adjusts an amplitude of a decoded second signal based on input from the user.

184. (previously added) A system comprised of a plurality of systems as described in claim 1, wherein each one of the plurality of systems is used by a corresponding one of each of a plurality of users, and wherein each of the plurality of users separately adjusts each of its own amplitudes of decoded first and second signals independently of other ones of the plurality of users.

185. (previously added) The method of claim 2, wherein the first signal is a first digital bit stream and the second signal is a second digital bit stream.

186. (previously added) The method of claim 2, wherein the first signal and the second signal each include one or more channels of spatial information.

187. (previously added) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
adjusting, at a first adjustment device, an amplitude of a decoded first signal based on input from the user; and
adjusting, at a second adjustment device, an amplitude of a decoded second signal based on input from the user.

188. (previously added) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
decoding the first signal at the decoder to produce a decoded first signal;
decoding the second signal at the decoder to produce a decoded second signal; and
separately adjusting the decoded first and decoded second signals.

189. (previously added) The method of claim 188, wherein separate adjustments of the decoded first and decoded second signals are based on an input from the user.